
ASEXUALITY AWARENESS

Center for Gender
& Sexual Diversity



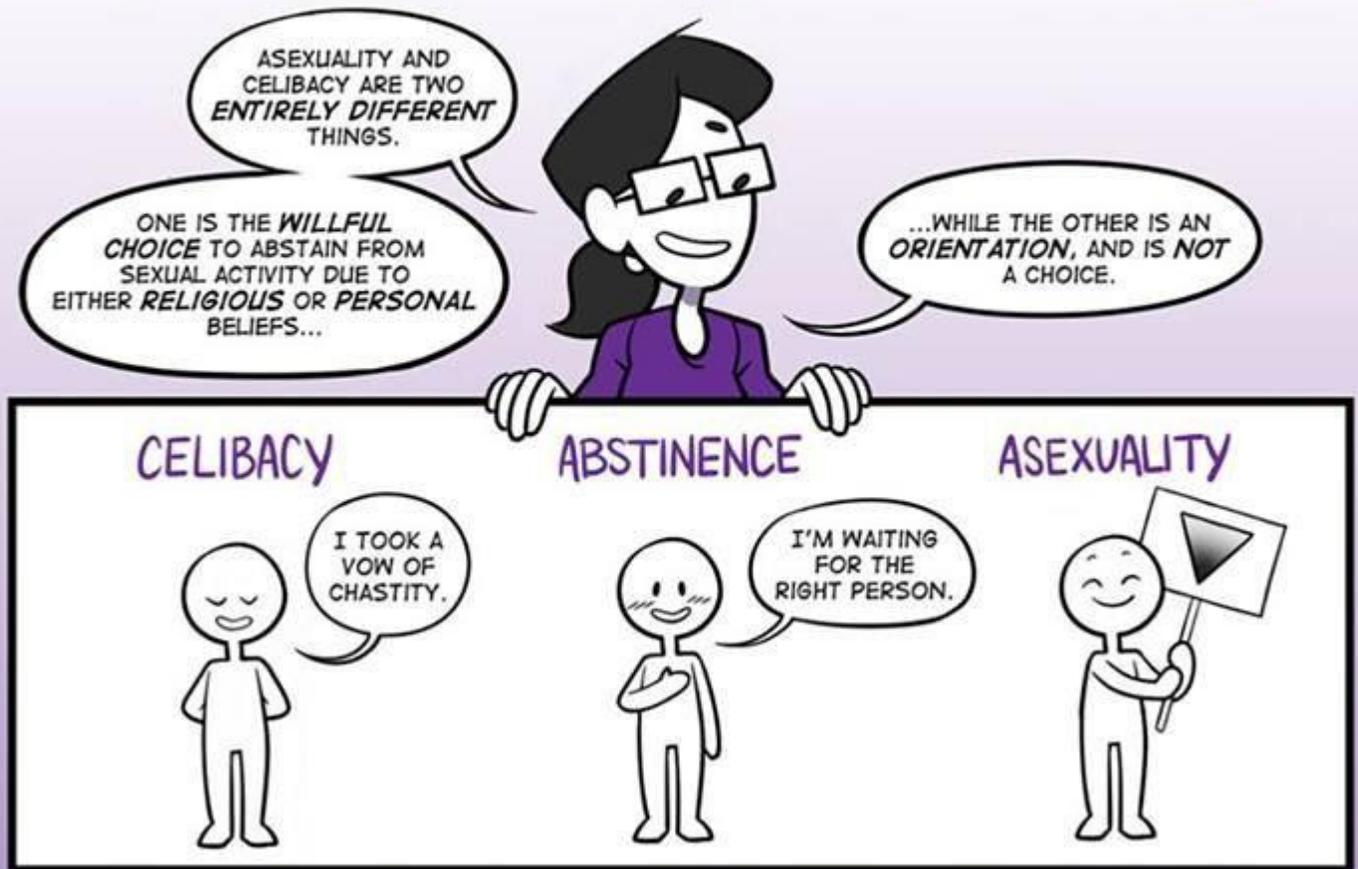
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WHAT IS ASEXUALITY?

- “Asexuality is defined by a **lack of sexual attraction or intrinsic desire for partnered sex**. Another way of wording it is as being sexually attracted to no gender.” (Asexual Visibility & Education Network, 2018)
 - “Many asexual people may experience forms of attraction that can be romantic, aesthetic, or sensual in nature but do not lead to a need to act out on that attraction sexually.” (AVEN, 2018)
 - Asexual people often feel the need to specify both sexual and romantic attractions to make it clear what drives them and what they’re seeking from other people.” (AVEN, 2018)

MYTHS ABOUT THE ACE COMMUNITY

MYTH: ASEXUALITY = CELIBACY



MYTHS ABOUT THE ACE COMMUNITY

MYTH: ASEXUALS ARE JUST WHINY VIRGINS WHO CAN'T "GET LAID"



NOT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT THE CONCEPT OF VIRGINITY ITSELF IS A **GROSSLY ARCHAIC AND DAMAGING** SOCIAL CONSTRUCT THAT'S USED TO **SHAME AND COMMODIFY** PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY **WOMEN...**

PEOPLE WHO IDENTIFY AS ASEXUAL ARE NOT ALWAYS VIRGINS. IN FACT, MANY ASEXUALS DO NOT KNOW THAT THEY **ARE** ASEXUAL UNTIL **AFTER** THEY'VE ALREADY HAD INTERCOURSE.

AND EVEN FOR THOSE WHO ARE VIRGINS, THE REASON THEY'RE ASEXUAL IS **NOT** DUE TO THE FACT THAT THEY CAN'T "GET LAID"; IT'S BECAUSE THEY **HAVE NO INTEREST IN DOING SO.**

MYTHS ABOUT THE ACE COMMUNITY

MYTH: ASEXUALS ARE COLD, LOVELESS & THEY HATE SEX

QUITE THE CONTRARY!
ASEXUALS HAVE THE CAPACITY
TO FORM **HEALTHY AND LOVING**
RELATIONSHIPS, BASED UPON
ROMANTIC ORIENTATION.



ROMANTIC ORIENTATION IS
WHAT DETERMINES THE KIND OF
PERSON YOU'RE ATTRACTED TO
EMOTIONALLY OR ROMANTICALLY,
RATHER THAN **SEXUALLY**.

HETEROROMANTIC
HOMOROMANTIC
BIROMANTIC
PANROMANTIC

SOME ALSO IDENTIFY AS **AROMANTIC**, MEANING
THEY HAVE NO INTEREST IN FORMING ROMANTIC
RELATIONSHIPS WITH ANYONE OF ANY GENDER



NOT TO SAY THAT AROMANTIC PEOPLE ARE
UNABLE TO LOVE ANYONE AT ALL! THEIR
INTEREST LIES IN LOVE THAT IS MORE **FAMILIAL**
THAN ROMANTIC.



ASEXUALITY ISN'T

- Abstinence because of a bad relationship
- Abstinence because of religious reasons
- Celibacy
- Sexual repression, aversion, or dysfunction
- Loss of libido due to age or circumstance
- Fear of intimacy
- Inability to find a partner

ACES MIGHT

- Want friendship, understanding, and empathy
- Fall in love
- Experience arousal and orgasm
- Choose to masturbate
- Choose to engage in sexual activity
- Choose not to engage in sexual activity
- Be of any gender, age, or background
- Have a spouse and/or children

(Trevor Project, 2018)



A FEW COMMON TERMS TO EXPLORE:

- **Aromantic:** People who experience little to no romantic attraction, and are content with close friendships and other non-romantic relationships.
- **Demisexual:** People who only experience sexual attraction once they form a strong emotional connection with another person.
- **Grey-A:** People who identify somewhere between sexual and asexual.
- **Queerplatonic:** People who experience a type of non-romantic relationship where there is an intense emotional connection that goes beyond a traditional friendship.
- Aces commonly use hetero-, homo-, bi-, and pan- in front of the word romantic to describe who they experience romantic attraction to. For example, a person who is hetero-romantic might be attracted to people of a different sex or gender, but not in a sexual way. (Trevor Project, 2018)

WANT TO LEARN
MORE?

EIU Center for Gender & Sexual Diversity

- The EIU Center for Gender & Sexual Diversity aspires to create an inclusive community by instilling a culture of respect, advocacy, and empowerment towards an open, safe, and just campus.
- Stevenson Hall Lower Level
- Phone: 217-581-7117
- Email: lgbtqa@eiu.edu

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